

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6686

C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 725

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR PFOR BF ZA

SUBJ: KAUNDA VISIT - A CUBAN TIE?

REF: NASSAU 647 AND NASSAU 724

1. AT THE INITIATIVE OF MIAMI IRS OFFICE, WHICH BELIEVED INFORMATION MOE APPROPRIATE FOR EMASSY THAN IRS, LOCAL RES-IDENT WHO IS IRS SOURCE CALLED ON DCM APRIL 25 TO REPORT THAT, ACCORDING TO LOCAL SOURCE, FIDEL CASTRO OR OTHER HIGH RANKING CUBAN OFFICIAL HAD ARRIVED IN NASSAU ON APRIL 24 WITH ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT KAUNDA AND PARTY. (KAUNDA HAD VISITED CUBA IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO COMING TO NASSAU.)

2. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, CUBAN OFFICIAL WAS INCLUDED IN DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN PRESIDENT KAUNDA AND PRIME MINISTER PINDLING AND THAT WAS REASON KAUNDA/PINDLING DISCUSSIONS WERE SECRET.

3. DCM ASKED IRS INFORMANT WHAT SUBJECTS MIGHT BE OF COMMON INTEREST TO PINDLING, KAUNDA, AND CUBAN OFFICIAL. REPLY WAS THAT KAUNDA'S PARA-MILITARY FORCE IN ZAMBIA HAD BEEN TRAINED IN CUBA AND "EVERYBODY KNOWS" THAT PINDLING IS INTERESTED IN A PARA-MILITARY FORCE FOR THE BAHAMAS.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY IS AWARE OF SOME BAHAMIAN INTEREST IN
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A YOUTH CORPS TO SOLVE PROBLEM OF UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG THE

YOUNG AND LACK OF TRAINING IN THE SKILLS AND OF A POSSIBLE
BAHAMIAN INTEREST IN A MODEST DEFENSE FORCE (SEE REFTELS).
WHETHER COINCIDENTALLY OR NOT, STATE DINNER FOR KAUNDA,
WHICH AMBASSADOR ATTENDED, INCLUDED IN ADDITION TO USUAL
NICETIES IN TOAST, SPECIFIC REFERENCE BY PRIME MINISTER
PINDLING TO HIS ADMIRATION FOR KAUNDA'S EFFORTS IN ORGANIZ-
ING THE YOUTH OF ZAMBIA. THE IRS INFORMANT'S REPORT WHICH
TIES THIS TOGETHER AND GIVES IT A CUBAN TINGE AS WELL
STRIKES US AS EXTREMELY UNLIKELY BUT WORTH NOTING.
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